



The **Kentucky Municipal Utilities Association** (KMUA) states that the bill could violate current contracts already in place. Additionally, the bill might prevent cities like Owensboro Municipal Utilities from accessing the unserved areas due to the language of the bill perceiving that only private companies will be able to access the middle mile of the broadband network, locking out city and county utilities, and preventing city and county utilities from buying into the middle mile of internet service. Finally, KMUA states that city utilities currently provide broadband in 15 small rural towns.

A representative municipal utility, **Owensboro Municipal Utilities** (OMU), states that municipal utilities such as OMU that provide broadband, the bill prevents municipal utilities who provide broadband services to their communities from accessing capacity on the network. If municipal utility companies were able to access the network, then the municipal utilities would have an opportunity to provide additional options at a potentially more affordable rate. For example, OMU could potentially utilize KentuckyWired to strengthen reliability and provide additional services to their community.

The **Kentucky Telecom Association** (KTA) (representing 18 rural broadband providers in Kentucky) supports HB 332 provisions effectively limiting KCNA/OpenFiber KY from offering wholesale services in areas already served by internet service providers providing 25 meg downstream/3 meg upstream broadband (the current definition of broadband as defined by the Federal Communications Commission). The KTA states that HB 332 would still allow KCNA/OpenFiber KY to offer wholesale services in areas of the Commonwealth of Kentucky that are deemed unserved by the FCC's current definition.

Below is a list of municipal broadband providers:

1. Frankfort Electric Plant Board
2. Owensboro Municipal Utilities
3. Barbourville Utility Commission
4. Bardstown Municipal Utilities
5. Bowling Green Municipal Utilities
6. Franklin Electric Plant Board
7. Glasgow Electric Plant Board
8. Henderson Municipal Power & Light
9. Hopkinsville Electric System
10. Mayfield Electric & Water System
11. Murray Electric System
12. Paducah Power System
13. Princeton Electric Plant Board
14. Russellville Electric Plant Board
15. Williamstown Utility Commission

The following telephone cooperatives provide high-speed Internet service to rural Kentucky:

Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative; Duo County Telephone Cooperative; Foothills Rural Telephone Cooperatives; Highland Telephone Cooperative; Logan Telephone Cooperative; Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative; North Central Telephone Cooperative; Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative; South Central Telephone Cooperative; and West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative.

### **Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions**

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as introduced.

**Data Source(s):** Kentucky Telecom Association; Kentucky Municipal Utilities Association; Kentucky League of Cities; LRC staff

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